

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

In the Office Action, claims 15 and 19-24 are objected to because of informalities.

Claims 4, 7, 8, and 10-14 are indicated as objected to for being dependent upon the rejected base claim, but would be allowable if the written in independent form including all the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication No. 09-269658 to *Hasenami*.

Claims 15-19 and 21-24 are indicated as allowable.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowance of claims 15-19 and 21-24. Applicants amend claims 15, 19, and 21-24 to correct certain informalities, and cancel claim 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, and 20 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 4, 7, 8, and 10-14 are rewritten to put the claims into independent form. Accordingly, claims 4, 7, 8, 10-19, and 21-24 are pending for further consideration.

All Subject Matter is Allowable

Applicants respectfully amend claims 15, 19, and 21-24 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the objection to claims 15 and 19-24, and allowance of claims 15, 19, and 21-24 as indicated above.

Claims 4, 7, 8, and 10-14 are rewritten to put the claims into independent form in order to pass them onto allowance as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of claims 5, 7, 8, and 10-14.

With respect to claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, and 20 which stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication No. 09-269658 to *Hasenami*, Applicants respectfully cancel without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of claims 4, 7, 8, 10-19, and 21-24 without delay.

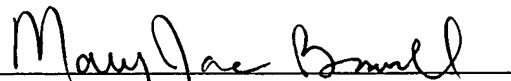
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the entry of this Amendment to place the application in clear condition for allowance or, in the alternative, in better form for appeal. Applicants also request the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

By: 
Mary Jane Boswell
Reg. No. 33,652

Date: April 10, 2006

Customer No. 009629
CUSTOMER NO. 09629
MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
Telephone: (202) 739-3000
Facsimile: (202) 739-3001